Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drug delivery system comprising a contact lens having dispersed therein as nanoparticles an ophthalmic drug nanoencapsulated in a material from which said ophthalmic drug is capable of diffusion into and migration through said contact lens and into the post-lens tear film when said contact lens is placed on the eye, and wherein said diffusion provides extended or time-release delivery of said ophthalmic drug.

2. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said nanoparticles are of a size and are dispersed within said contact lens in an amount such that said contact lens remains ~~substantially~~ optically transparent, wherein optically transparent is a degree of transparency equal to that of p-HEMA or other material employed as a contact lens.

3. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 2 wherein said amount of nanoparticles is from about 1 to about 5%, by weight, based on the weight of the contact lens.

4. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said contact lens is a soft contact lens.

5. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 4 wherein said contact lens comprises poly 2-hydroxyethylmethacrylate.

6. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said ophthalmic drug is lidocaine, timolol, ciproflaxin, cyclosporin A, or pilocarpine, or wherein said drug is an antiparisitic, ~~or~~ an anti-protozoal, ~~drugs such as ivermectin, pyrimethamine~~, a

steroids ~~such as prednisilone acetate~~, a non-steroids ~~such as acular, voltaren~~, an antibiotics ~~such as ciloxan, gentamycin, cephlosporins and the like~~ or mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The drug delivery system of claim 1 wherein said ophthalmic drug is nanoencapsulated with an encapsulation material in an oil-in-water emulsion.

8. (Previously Presented) The drug delivery system of claim 7 wherein said encapsulation material is chitosan nanoparticles, human serum albumin nanoparticles, biodegradable poly (alkylcynoacrylates), polybutylcyanoacrylate, polyhexylcyanoacrylate, polyethylcyanoacrylate, (polyisobutylcyanoacrylat- e), polycyanoacylate, silica nanospheres, PEG'ylated core-shell nanoparticles, biodegradable PLGA (poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide)) particles, (poly lactic acid), PGA, PLG (poly(D,L-glycolide)) polymeric nanoparticles, microemulsion nanodroplets, liposomes, biocompatible gliadin nanoparticles, low pH sensitive PEG stabilized plasmid-lipid nanoparticles, biodegradable calcium phosphate, legumin, tocopherol derivatives stabilized nano-sized emulsion particles, polysaccherides grafted with Polyesthers (amphyphilic copolymers), PLA-PEG nanoparticles, nanoparticles composed of hydrophilic proteins coupled with apolipoprotein E, biodegradable poly(.vepsiln-caprolactone) nanoparticles, poly(methylidene malonate), gelatin, poly(E-caprolactone), sodium alginate, agarose hydrogel, PMMA, biotinylated poly(ethylene glycol) conjugated with lactobionic acid, carboxylmethyl dextran magnetic nanoparticles, poly(vinyl alcohol) hydrogel, biotinylated pullulan acetate, diblock copolymers or mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of administering an ophthalmic drug to a patient in need thereof comprising placing on the eye thereof the drug delivery system of claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising: a) a first component containing at least one drug delivery system of claim 1, and b) a second component containing at least one

storage container for said first component, said storage container additionally containing a material that substantially prevents said diffusion and migration of said ophthalmic drug during storage.

11. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 10 wherein said material that substantially prevents said diffusion and migration of said ophthalmic drug is substantially saturated with an aqueous solution of said ophthalmic drug.

12. (Previously Presented) ~~Use of t~~The kit of claim 11~~2~~, wherein the kit is used for the storage and delivery of ophthalmic drugs to the eye of a patient in need thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing the drug delivery system of claim 1 comprising: a) providing said nanoencapsulated ophthalmic drug, and b) preparing said contact lens from materials that incorporate the nanoencapsulated ophthalmic drug, such that the nanoencapsulated ophthalmic drug is substantially uniformly dispersed throughout said contact lens.

14. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and the ophthalmic drug delivery system of claim 1 contained within said packaging material, wherein said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said ophthalmic drug delivery system can be used for ameliorating symptoms associated with pathologic conditions of the eye.

15. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and the kit of claim 12 contained within said packaging material, wherein said packaging material comprises a label which indicates that said first component of said kit can be used for ameliorating symptoms associated with pathologic conditions of the eye and that said second component of said kit can be used for storage of said first component.

16. (New) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said antiparisitic or anti-protozoal drug is ivermectin, pyrimethamine or mixtures thereof.

17. (New) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said steroid is prednisilone acetate.

18. (New) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said non-steroid is acular, voltaren, or mixtures thereof.

19. (New) The drug delivery system of claim 6 wherein said antibiotic is ciloxan, gentamycin, cephlosporin or mixtures thereof.